

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 5, 6, 8-10 and 12-14 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of administering user rights of a software program licensed under an agreement in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded, comprising:

managing user right information indicating the state in which the software program is used and the user rights;

when at least the predetermined event occurs, detecting the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, sending notice indicating the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, and acquiring information of a predetermined range of user right, defined in the agreement, within which the user rights are expanded beyond the user rights as originally provided;

updating the managed user right information, based on the acquired range of user right information; and

executing the software program, based on the updated managed user right information.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising decoding the range of user right information, wherein the managed user right information is updated based on the decoded range of user right information.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising verifying a decoded range of user right information with predetermined verification information for verifying whether the decoded range of user right information is correct, wherein the managed user right information is updated based on the verification.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of administering a user right agreement of a software program in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded, comprising:

managing agreement information containing the range of the user rights and the effective period of the expansion, in the case of the occurrence of at least the predetermined event;

receiving a notice indicating the occurrence of at least a predetermined event;

when at least the predetermined event occurs, generating predetermined range information, defined in the user right agreement, that allows expansion of the user rights, based on the managed agreement information, beyond the user rights as originally provided; and

expanding the user right of the software program in accordance with the generated range information.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of administering user rights of a software program licensed under an agreement in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded within a predetermined range, defined in the agreement, beyond the user rights as originally provided, comprising:

managing user right registration information indicating a user right identifier identifying the user right of the software program and whether the user right identifier is registered;

when at least the predetermined event occurs, detecting the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, sending notice indicating the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, and determining whether the user right identifier is registered based on the managed user right registration information; and

executing the software program based on the determination.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus administering user rights of a software program licensed under an agreement in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded, comprising:

a management unit to manage user right information indicating the state in which the software program is used and the user rights;

a detection unit to detect the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, and to send notice indicating the occurrence of at least the predetermined event;

an acquisition/update unit to acquire, when said detection unit detects that at least the predetermined event has occurred, predetermined range information, defined in the agreement, within which the user ~~right is~~ rights are expanded beyond the user rights as originally provided, and to update the user right information managed by the management unit based on the acquired range information; and

a software execution unit to allow the software program to be executed based on the updated user right information managed by said management unit.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for administering user rights of a software program licensed under an agreement in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded within a predetermined range defined in the agreement, beyond the user rights as originally provided, comprising:

a management unit to manage user right registration information indicating a user right identifier identifying the user right of the software program and whether the user right identifier is registered;

a detection unit to detect the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, and to send notice indicating the occurrence of at least the predetermined event; and

a software execution unit to determine, when said detection unit detects that at least the predetermined event has occurred, whether the user right identifier is registered based on the user right registration information managed by said management unit, and to execute the software program, based on the determination.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for administering a user right agreement of a software program in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software are expanded, comprising:

a management unit to manage agreement information containing the range of the user rights and the effective period of the expansion, in the case of the occurrence of at least the predetermined event;

a reception unit to receive a notice indicating the occurrence of at least a predetermined event;

a generation unit to generate, when at least the predetermined event occurs, predetermined range information, defined in the user right agreement, that allows expansion of the user rights beyond the user rights as originally provided, based on the agreement information managed by said management unit; and

an expansion unit to expand the user right of the software program in accordance with the generated range information.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that causes a computer to administer user rights of a software program licensed under an agreement in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded, the computer program comprising:

instructions to manage user right information indicating the state in which the software program is used and the user rights;

instructions to detect, when at least the predetermined has occurred, the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, to send notice indicating the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, to acquire predetermined range information, defined in the agreement, within which the user rights are expanded beyond the user rights as originally provided;

instructions to update the managed user right information based on the acquired range of information; and

instructions to execute the software program, based on the updated user right information.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that causes a computer to administer user rights of a software program licensed under an agreement in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded, within a predetermined range defined in the agreement, beyond the user rights as originally provided, the computer program comprising:

instructions to manage user right registration information indicating a user right identifier identifying the user right of the software program and whether the user right identifier is registered;

instructions to detect, when at least the predetermined event has occurred, the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, to send notice indicating the occurrence of at least the predetermined event, and to determine whether the user right identifier is registered based on the managed user right registration information; and

~~instruction~~ instructions to execute the software program, based on the determination

14. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing a computer program that causes a computer to administer a user right agreement of a software program in which, if at least a predetermined event occurs, the user rights of the software program are expanded, the computer program comprising:

instructions to manage agreement information containing the expandable range of the user rights and the effective period of the expansion, available in the case of the occurrence of at least the predetermined event;

instructions to receive a notice indicating the occurrence of at least a predetermined event;

instructions to generate, when at least the predetermined event occurs, predetermined range information, defined in the user right agreement, that allows expansion of the user rights beyond the user rights as originally provided, based on the managed agreement information; and

instructions to expand the user right of the software program in accordance with the generated range information.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)